facing a lot of difficulties on account of shortage of pilots;

(b) if so, the present position of pilots in each Airline; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the mass resignation of pilots?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Air India Airlines have been facing shortage of pilots. While there was no mass resignation of pilots in Air India, Indian Airlines experienced large exodus of pilots prior to 1996.

To meet the shortages Air India has been utilising the services of retired pilots on contract basis.

The availability of pilots in Indian Airlines has improved considerably due to rationalisation of training schedule, change in carrer pattern of Commanders and introduction of Productivity Linked Incentive Scheme.

**Investment in Tourism Sector**

239. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Government sources there is a need at present for investment of Rs. 39,100 crores in tourism sector of the country;

(b) if so, the main channels in tourism sector in which this amount is proposed to be invested;

(c) whether the Government have drawn up any phased programme for investment of this amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) The Department of Tourism prepared a working paper in 1993 enlisting the activities to be taken up by various agencies to attract 5 million tourists to India. According to national estimates, the investment required for the same amounted to Rs. 39,100 crores which was to be shared between Central and State Governments, Public Sector undertakings and the private sector.

The main areas of investment were airports, aircrafts, railways, roads, civil amenities, resorts, accommodations, restaurants, shopping complexes, tourist facilitation centres, convention centres, Human Resource Development and Training. No phased programme has, however, been drawn up for the investment of this amount due to non-availability of resources.

**Representations for Direct Air Services**

240. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been representations for a long-time for providing direct air services for Kutch passengers from Mumbai-Ahmedabad to Sharjah and Delhi-Ahmedabad to Muscat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The air service requirements of Kutch passengers are essentially catered through Ahmedabad Airport. Ahmedabad is connected to Dubai via Mumbai/Delhi thrice a week and to Muscat via Mumbai twice a week by Air India services.

*[Translation]*

**Doordarshan Kendras/Relay Centres, Himachal Pradesh**

241. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Doordarshan Kendras and relay centres, functioning at present in Himachal Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) whether this number compares favourably with the national average;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to set up new Doordarshan Kendras for expansion of television network in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(e) whether the requisite staff have been provided for installation and maintenance of HPTs in the State; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). One Programme Production Centre at Shimla and twenty seven TV transmitters of varying power are presently operational in the State of Himachal Pradesh. While the number of TV transmitters in Himachal Pradesh compares favourably with most of the other States, percentage of area and population covered by these transmitters in the State is less than the national average because of hilly terrain which restricts the extent of resultant co erage from the transmitters. However, with a view to further augment TV service in the State, 23 transmitters of varying power are presently under implementation and 7 TV transmitters, including one HPT, are envisaged to be set up in the State subject to availability of resources and infrastructural facilities. Location-wise details of the existing transmitter projects as also those under implementation/envisaged to be set up in Himachal Pradesh are given in the enclosed Statement.